

MAR 31 2000
TECH CENTER 1600/2900

REMARKS

Applicant is including a claim for priority under 35 U.S.C. §119 from Canadian Patent Application No. 2,292,247, filed with the Canadian Intellectual Property Office on December 10, 1999. A certified copy of the Canadian patent application is enclosed herein. An amendment to the present United States patent application has been made to include such claim.

Applicant also encloses herewith a petition to make special under 37 C.F.R. 1.102(d) and in compliance with M.P.E.P. 708.02 VIII, together with a check in the sum of \$130.00 U.S. funds for filing this Petition. If there is any deficiency or surplusage of the fees enclosed for the Petition, please obtain any such deficiency or credit the surplusage to Deposit Account 08-3255 and advise Applicant's Agent.

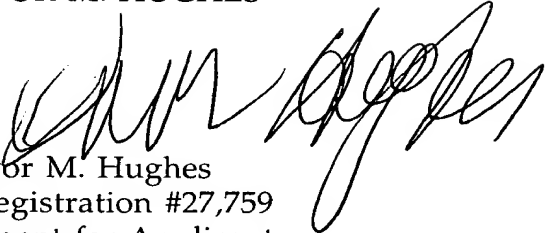
Applicant also includes an Information Disclosure Statement, together with Form PTO-1449, together with a check in the sum of \$240.00 U.S. funds for filing this Information Disclosure Statement. If there is any deficiency or surplusage of the fees enclosed for the Information Disclosure Statement, please obtain any such deficiency or credit the surplusage to Deposit Account 08-3255 and advise Applicant's Agent.

If the Examiner has any questions, the Examiner is respectfully requested

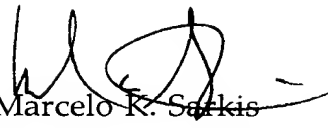
to contact Marcelo K. Sarkis at (905) 771-6414 collect at the Examiner's convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

IVOR M. HUGHES



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Enclosures